

A Summer Journey from New York to Moscow.

Odessa, the Crimea, and the Southern Aspects of the Caucasus.

Hon. Charles A. Dana, in the Sun. Our ship had scarcely been fastened to the wharf at Odessa when a Russian officer came on board and informed me that orders had been given that our luggage was not to be subjected to Custom House examination, and, upon my inquiring the source of such politeness, I was told that it was done at the instance of Dr. Thomas E. Heenan, an old friend of ours, who for several years has been Consul of the United States at that port. Dr. Heenan appears to be a persona grata, not merely with the Americans, English, French, and other foreigners at Odessa, but with the Russian officials and Russian society as well. He soon afterward came on board in person, and was most warmly welcomed. He informed us also of an amusing occur-

Starting in the morning from Sevastopol and driving with one or two changes of horses, we traversed the southern projection of the peninsula, and at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon passed through the Gates of Baidar, as the passage through the Iaila Mountains is called, and looked down upon one of the noblest spectacles in the world. Immediately before us lay the boundless sea, the shore rocky and broken, with villages, churches, castles and little seaports, all made accessible by the great road cut into the mountain side here and there, and then built out under the walls over some abyss or valley below, alone thought to make the name of Prince Worontzoff forever memorable in all southeastern Russia. The vegetation on the mountain slopes toward the sea is wonderfully

strut around the old tomb and down through the streets of the town. We saw plenty of shops for the sale of engravings, as well provided with imitations of modern manufacture; but it was impossible to gaze from the summit of the hill over the vast country to the north and west without longing to break into some of the many large kourgans, or burial mounds of regular conical form, which dot the landscape in almost every direction. I mentioned this to an expert upon our steamer, and he agreed with me to the desire, but added that experience shows that where it is gratified the effort almost always results in disappointment. Most of these mounds, he said, are merely the graves of noted individuals of prehistoric times. In the center of the large ones is usually found a skeleton horse standing with a skeleton man on his back. This was a favorite mode of burial for the old Chimerian chieftains, and very rarely, almost never in fact, are ornaments of precious metals found among the relics; while the remains of pottery are usually of no value and of quite trifling interest. We left the roadstead of Kerch before sundown, and the next morning found ourselves at Novo Rossisk, a noble harbor, with every point on the shores bearing evidence of the im-

portance, at the close of the twelfth century spread Christianity among the Ossetes and dotted their heights with churches. However that may have been, we found on the beautiful fresh turf which surrounds the fallen towers of her old castle, in the shade of the big trees, a most agreeable place for a picnic. But our desire to start for the interior prevailed over every other attraction. It was still early in the afternoon when we took our places in the train for Tiflis, the mountain railway over which we were to travel having at last been repaired, so that there was a prospect of getting through to the Georgian capital, though there had been no communication with it by train for a month or more. We had scarcely got out of sight of Batoum when the clouds that had so long concealed the mountains disappeared, and we could quite distinctly see the long range extending apparently from west to east, Elbruz, with its double summits on the west, and in the east Kasbek, a marvel of beauty, worthy even to rival the solemn apparition of the Jungfrau, as one may behold there cannot be any more noble, more beautiful, or more impressive than these little known groups of the Caucasus. But on this subject let us pause for a moment, and listen to the great poet of Russia:

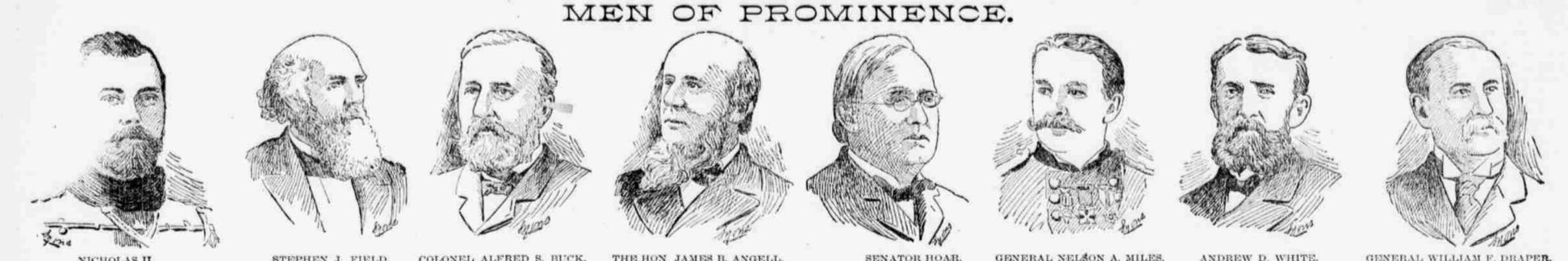
Farewell Glimpses At Modern Mexico.

How Sunday Is Observed at the Mexican Capital--Growth of Evangelical Missions. Some Disappointments--General Observations.

Theo. Hart, in Pittston Gazette. As the last day of our sojourn in the city of Mexico was Sunday, it gave an opportunity to see how our neighbors on the Rio Grande observe the Sabbath. The appearance of the principal streets of the city was little unlike that of other days. Here and there a place of business was closed, but for the most part, during the afternoon, all lines of trade were proceeding as usual. The appearance of the streets was little unlike that of other days. Here and there a place of business was closed, but for the most part, during the afternoon, all lines of trade were proceeding as usual. The appearance of the streets was little unlike that of other days. Here and there a place of business was closed, but for the most part, during the afternoon, all lines of trade were proceeding as usual.

dent to travel in a foreign land with no knowledge of the language of the people—a feeling of disappointment, which we turned our faces homeward, that we were compelled to make so superficial and incomplete a survey of the wonderful city of Mexico and its surroundings. While the city is very compact, a population of half a million necessarily covers considerable ground, and among the time between the city of Mexico and some of the historic points a short distance outside of the city. We felt, indeed, that ours had been little more than a prospective tour, and that if we could return, and have at least a

car for their friends. The cargadores in the cities are men and boys licensed to carry baggage or parcels. They are ubiquitous, however, for. On arriving at our hotel, in the city of Mexico, as our party of four stepped from the carriage a squad of cargadores took our grips and carried them into the hotel office. We supposed, of course, that they were waiters connected with the hotel, but were soon made aware of our mistake when they demanded fees for the service rendered. They are always on the lookout for a job, and expect pay for anything done, however trifling. Railroads are the best paid class in Mexico, and these are largely men from the United States. Most of the native mechanics work very cheap, so to the day in depressed silver worth only half that amount in American currency being the average wages. An American connected with a printing house in the city of Mexico told me that job work was done there for less money in their currency than is paid in our money in America, but much of the work done is very inferior. PULQUE. Most visitors to Mexico desire to taste the pulque, their national beverage, which is the fermented juice of the maguey plant. Pulque more than one



rence that had taken place an hour or two before, which we found afterward exploited at length and with a good deal of wit in the Odessa Vaestnik. The police had been informed that when our party arrived it would be their duty not only to receive us with marks of courtesy but to escort us and our impedimenta to the hotel where lodgings had been secured for us. A Russian steamer had arrived pretty early in the morning, and the police officers inquired if there were any Americans among the passengers. Two gentlemen, answering the description were found, and, without further inquiry, they were informed that they were expected that their trunks were to be passed unopened, and that the officers would at once conduct them to the hotel. Surprised but not displeased by this intelligence, the two gentlemen, both of them merchants of some description, hailed from Boston, immediately started for the hotel, but, on arriving there, they declared that the rooms to which they were taken were not intended for two persons only, and so the mistake was found out. Thus the Vaestnik had a chance to laugh at the police, on account of this blunder, and the rare opportunity was well improved.

varied and interesting. The prevailing trees are oak and beeches, with union pines, cypresses, myrtles, mulberry trees, and occasionally fig trees mingled among them. I was greatly impressed by a kind of dwarf birch which I had never seen in any other part of the world, and of which we passed that day hundreds of specimens. It often lay stretched out almost flat upon the ground, and again where the soil and the exposure were favorable, it would assume a form of perfect regularity and rise to the height of six or eight feet. The leaves are exceedingly small and lustrous, making it a very decorative plant. It seems surprising that botanists have never brought it out to the knowledge of the world, and made it available for general cultivation. Of the wild azaleas that we saw growing in the Crimea, and the Caucasus too, I am bound to add that they were rather poor and disappointing. Those of Pike county are ten times finer.

ANCIENT PHASIS. Our next stopping place was at Souk-boukale, and the next at Poti, at the mouth of the river Rion, likewise a place of extreme activity, with a branch of the Trans-Caucasian railway extending as far as Kutais, on the way to Tiflis and the Caspian. The Rion is the ancient Phasis, and hither the Argonauts came seeking the Golden Fleece, and hence they returned after they had got it. The low lying, malarious looking shores and the turbulent river, swollen to enormous extent by the spring freshets from the mountains justified the description of the poet:

And reached a river, where the sea, Across the which the white-winged fowl did flit From cliff to cliff, and on the sandy bar The fresh waves and the salt waves were at war At turning of the tide. Now swift beneath the oar strokes Argo flew, While the sun rose behind them, and they drew Into the river's mouth, nor failed to see Absyrtus' galleys waiting watchfully Betwixt them and the white-tipped turbid bar. Therefore they got them ready now for war With joyful hearts for sarp they sniffed the sea And saw the great waves tumbling green and free Outside the bar upon the way to Greece, The rough green way to glory and sweet peace.

month at our disposal, we would know just how to put in the time delightfully and profitably. Our train made good time on the way home. Leaving the city of Mexico Sunday night, we crossed the Rio Grande border Tuesday night and were landed in St. Louis Friday morning. Had it not been for some delay on account of railroad washouts in the vicinity of St. Louis we could have made the home run nicely within six days, the schedule time between the city of Mexico and New York. We got through on the seventh day, notwithstanding the delays. It took our mail matter from here seven days to reach us at the Mexican capital.

ZACATECAS. As we passed through the city of Zacatecas during the night on the outward trip, a stop of a few hours was made there on the way northward. This place was founded in 1548. It is the capital of the state of the same name, and has had a population of nearly 100,000, but owing to the dullness in silver mining many have left the city. It has an altitude of over 8,000 feet. The city is compactly built on a hill eminence, the streets running up and down very irregularly. Altogether it was one of the most unique places we visited. There are venerable and richly furnished churches here but the greatest attraction in this line is the magnificent church at Guadalupe, a mining suburb, six miles distant, which is the capital of the state of San Francisco, and four hundred years ago was the site of Montezuma's summer palace. Here are ample quarters for the various departments of their mission work—a large auditorium for church meetings, also a chapel, rooms for the boys' school, the editorial and publishing work, a book store, the agents' office and three parsonages. Rev. John W. Butler, D. D., is in charge of this district, which extends over a large section adjacent to the city.

day old is not considered good. The prime article tastes as one would fancy a combination of buttermilk and yeast might taste. I heard of none of our party who cared to do more than sample it. The Mexicans, however, drink it freely, and although many are wretched victims of drinking it to excess, for it will intoxicate, we were told that it is quite common for persons to drink a quart regularly with a meal. Maguey plantations are cultivated on a large scale, the fiber of the plant being also utilized for many purposes. Tequila and mescal are distillations from different varieties of the maguey, the heart of the plant being roasted before it is distilled. These liquors are heavy and for the most part evil. It is said that a very small quantity of mescal has been known to cause a large sized revolution in days gone by. Ours was a happy party, with our feet once more on American soil, even though still 2,000 miles from home in distant Texas. The writer here recalled the fact that a little more than twenty-six years ago he rode into the State capital of the Lone Star state on the first railroad train that entered the city and for some time afterward there was no rail communication between Texas and the states, as the North and East were commonly spoken of. At that time there was no railroad to Mexico nor was there one in the country, and in many respects the land beyond the Rio Grande was as "way back" as the time of the Pharaohs. Indeed, Mexico was comparatively an unknown country to the outside world. The railroads have done great things for Texas in a quarter of a century, as they have for all of our great West, and to them also, is mainly due the wonderful development of Mexico's marvellous resources. Her forty different railroad lines, with 7,000 miles of track, must certainly be reckoned as a mighty factor in promoting the changed conditions there. That the genius and rare executive ability of President Diaz, who will have served a period of twenty years when he completes his present term, have also been essentially potent in the advancement of our neighboring republic, is generally understood, and his record as a soldier and statesman in the revolution of 1910, Mexico being called the creator of Modern Mexico. The wife of the president is a lady of rare beauty and accomplishments. She was educated in America and speaks English and French as fluently as her native tongue.

ODESSA. Odessa is indeed a very charming city boasting some 350,000 inhabitants. Spread out over an elevated and rather irregular surface, it fronts the sea with a bluff perhaps seventy feet in height. Along the outer border of this bluff is a neat little park called a boulevard, much frequented by ladies and children. The streets are wide, the public buildings many of them very handsome, the private houses spacious and elegant. We spent a part of three or four afternoons at the athletic grounds furnished by the city, where cricket is played mainly by foreigners and lawn tennis cultivated by the Russian gentlemen. It was also our good fortune to attend a celebration in the cathedral on the day of the new emperor's coronation in Moscow. The singing was magnificent, as I have almost always found in Russian Orthodox churches, though the choir consists of male voices alone and no instruments are allowed. A review in the adjoining public square following after the "Te Deum" in the church, was quite impressive, both for the martial appearance of the soldiers and the precision of their movements. Lieutenant General Zelony, the political governor and military commander of the province, received us with extreme graciousness, recalling the time when, as a subordinate officer, he had visited New York with the Russian fleet toward the close of the civil war.

YALTA. About 5 o'clock we reached Yalta, an agreeable watering place with hotels, bath-houses, and other amusements, and perhaps 1,500 regular inhabitants. We stayed there three or four days, and one of our most interesting excursions was to Livadia, a country seat of vast extent belonging to the Czar. Getting permission from the commander of the garrison, at the entrance, we spent a large part of a day in visiting it. There are several extensive dwellings, all simple and convenient, not furnished with any great magnificence, but sufficient for every requirement of comfort. In one bedroom of the imperial chateau we saw inscribed in the varnished gallery wall, in letters of wood, marking the spot where the late Emperor Alexander III. had died sitting in a chair. We went through the greenhouses, finding them large, filled with many interesting and not extraordinary plants, especially of ladies' fingers, otherwise remarkable. It was like the collection of a millionaire, with no unusual taste and no extensive knowledge of botany or of the marvels of modern culture. The collection of orchids seemed peculiarly limited. The roads through the forest, which covers much of the estate, are perfectly good, but nothing more. There seemed for instance, to be a scarcity of vitas taking advantage of the opportunity of looking out upon the adjoining sea. It was a case of magnitude, but not of big game. There are several other famous estates in the vicinity, one or two of them belonging to members of the imperial family, but we did not attempt to visit them; and finally, having exhausted the interest of the shops in Yalta, we left in the evening, and we left the Crimea and its delightful climate one pleasant evening on a most excellent Russian ship, whose final destination was Batoum, the last Russian port at its eastern extremity of the Black Sea.

BATOUM. On the way we stopped first at Kerch, the ancient Panticapeum at the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Sea of Azov. It is a very pleasant place, with thirty odd thousand inhabitants and an important trade, especially in salt. The most interesting object here is the tomb of the Emperor Alexander III., around the shores had nothing poetical or beautiful in their suggestions; and we were not sorry when our anchor was pulled up, and the Colchian hills behind us grew faint and fainter as our ship pushed southward toward Batoum. We arrived there in good season the next morning, and our steamer passed within the great jetty which protects the harbor on the west. The anchorage is extensive and perfectly safe, with an adequate depth of water, but the place is said to be unwholesome, owing to the marshy nature of the country for a considerable distance inland. The town is fortified, and a considerable garrison seems to be kept there. We saw on all sides the same indication of active business, and smelled the same of the sea and of the sun, which we had observed at the other ports looking eastward toward the great mountains and the Caspian. We soon had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. James C. Chambers, consul of the United States, to whom, as well as to Mr. Stevens, the British vice-consul, we were indebted for many acts of courtesy during our brief sojourn in the town. Batoum is entirely a modern city in its appearance and arrangements, but all visitors are taken to visit the Zamok or ruined chateau of Queen Tamara. Its remains occupy the summit of a moderate outside the town and about two miles from its centre. This queen appears to have been a lady of considerable importance, and Mr. Freshfield speaks of her with some enthusiasm. "Queen Tamara," he says, "the Charlemagne of the Caucasian lath-

and though I do not like to compare the Caucasus with the Alps, having seen the Alps frequently and from many points of observation, while of the Caucasus I have only had one or two satisfactory visions, and these rather too distant, yet I will confidently advise any enterprising person of leisure to pack his trunk at once and start for this wonder of the world in eastern Europe. My sober judgment is that, of all the great mountain displays that cannot be any more noble, more beautiful, or more impressive than these little known groups of the Caucasus. But on this subject let us pause for a moment, and listen to the great poet of Russia: Caucasus below me! Alone on the height I stand above the snows, on the brink of these awful slopes. An eagle rising from a distant summit floats immovably on a level with me. Here I behold the birth of rivers And the first moving of the terrible avalanches. Here the clouds hover quietly beneath me; Through them I hear the roaring water-falls. And see the naked hugeness of the rocks; Lower down the thin moses, the dry shrubs; And there also the green shades of the forest. Where the birds chatter, where the deer leap. There also men build nests in the mountain forests. And the sheep crawl over the grassy declivities. And the shepherd climbs down into the valleys. Where the Araxus rushes against the shaded shore, And the poor horseman hides himself in the forest. There the beautiful Terek with fury Plays and roars, like a young wild beast Struggling with hunger to escape his iron chains. And he rushes against the banks, with useless rage. And licks the rocks with hungry wave. In vain there is no food for him, no consolation. And the dumb crags compress him terribly.

MISSION WORK. Many of our excursion party attended the Sunday morning services at the Methodist Episcopal mission. They own and occupy a valuable property in the heart of the city which was formerly a portion of the convent of San Francisco, and four hundred years ago was the site of Montezuma's summer palace. Here are ample quarters for the various departments of their mission work—a large auditorium for church meetings, also a chapel, rooms for the boys' school, the editorial and publishing work, a book store, the agents' office and three parsonages. Rev. John W. Butler, D. D., is in charge of this district, which extends over a large section adjacent to the city. While several of the other evangelical churches of the United States have had missions in Mexico during the past quarter of a century, it is a singular fact that no European has ever been engaged in the work there. The Baptists have a church with over 250 members in the city of Mexico, which Rev. William H. Sloan is pastor. They have a chapel and the mission is one of the most prosperous in the country, having three out stations at suburban points. They publish a semi-monthly newspaper, La Luz. The Baptists also have valuable properties at Zacatecas and Aguascalientes and have workers stationed in a dozen or more other places. There is an Episcopal church in the city of Mexico, and the English and American colonies maintain regular services at this place of worship. I have heretofore spoken of the successful mission in Guanajuato. There are now Protestant congregations in nearly all of the twenty-eight states of the republic, the whole number exceeding 600, and new ones are multiplying throughout the country. The number of such communicants is reported to be about 18,000, with adherents numbering about 50,000. Connected with these churches are Sunday schools having an attendance of some 10,000 and day schools with 7,000 pupils. These results have been largely accomplished within a quarter of a century.

SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS. Many things have tended to make the Mexican Sunday much like the continental Sabbath. Of the varied Sunday attractions in the capital city—the bull rings and other sporting resorts, the public band concerts on the plazas, the gaudies of the fashionable promenades and the throng of pleasure seekers to be seen on the magnificent boulevard, the Paseo de la Reforma, crowded with carriages all the afternoon, I have heretofore written. That our sight seeing in the city of Mexico would be to be done in a very hasty and unsatisfactory manner, owing to the limited time at our disposal, we understood at the outset, and our experiences have been amply verified. We were much the same. No one would think of "doing" a city of fifty to seventy-five thousand population in a few hours, with so many rarities and points of interest to be seen as are presented in the places at which we halted on the outward journey, and so, even with our brief stops on the way, we expected little more than the bird's-eye view afforded from our car windows on either side of the railroad tracks, hurriedly traveling a distance of nearly 1,100 miles, as we did, from the Rio Grande, over the elevated table lands of the country to the capital of the republic. There, we were told, we would see all Mexico as in a nutshell. While we saw much there, and enjoyed it to the utmost, we confess that we shared the wonderful to see what burdens the common laborers will carry on their backs. In the cities one of these peons may occasionally be seen trudging alone along, carrying a coffin to the grave on his back. Those who are able to hire funeral cars use these, which are provided by the street car companies, either with or without an extra

THE FUTURE. A recent writer has well said that Mexico and her ruler are to be congratulated upon having a government which governs and contemporaneously, a people which has learned to be ruled. The brigand is an unpleasant memory, and one may now travel safely anywhere. There is no longer a host of a hundred Indians that is without its free public schools, and free night schools are provided for the working classes. These are conducted on a uniform system, being under the direct charge of the federal government. There are normal schools in every state, endowed by the government, besides many industrial and technical schools, also private schools of high standing. Teaching of religion in the free schools is prohibited, and in no country are children and state so absolutely divorced, notwithstanding the president is a Roman Catholic and the people practically a unit in that faith. In every public school above the primary grade, every private school, training school and college the study of English is compulsory. Diaz is said to have remarked, in discussing this feature of their schools, that he expects to give the next generation of Mexicans two idiomatic languages. The patriots of the American revolution who led the way in the struggle for government by the people were doubtless the chief inspiration of similar movements in Mexico, Central and South America, and although the mixed races descended from the Spaniards and aborigines have made slow progress in working out the problems of self government, there has been some advance; and the rapid strides now being made by our Mexican neighbors, with their population of thirteen millions, must have a favorable influence upon the republics to the south of them, whose population is perhaps sixty millions more. Some years before Cortez made his first conquest of the land of the Aztecs, another bold Spaniard, Balboa, had landed on the isthmus of the southward. As he first looked out upon the waters of the great Pacific, from the green clad hills of Panama, it is said that the explorer hurried down to the sea, and kneeling in the surf, dedicated the American continents, in the name of God and his king, to Christianity and civilization forever. Let us hope that Balboa's benediction may be more fully realized in the not distant future.

BOGUS RELICS. We were able to drive nearly to the summit of the hill and to examine closely by the ancient tomb. We found, however, that the territory surrounding it was still frequented by a number of amateur explorers, who with long iron hooks, poked in the graves to find antiquities that have escaped previous efforts. From one of these I bought for a few kopecks three or four little terra cotta images, which the seller assured me had been dug out on the spot; but, on careful examination, I found that they had been made in Italy for sale as specimens of prehistoric art. We also visited the museum in one of the streets near the water, but saw there nothing very impressive, the really valuable articles having long since been taken away. But the view from the summit of the hill was superb, and we greatly enjoyed our afternoon's

CHANGED HIS MIND. "I want to get a good suit of clothes made to order," he said to the tailor. "I don't like to see you make a mistake, and my wife thinks it's time that I put on a little suit." "Certainly," was the reply. "You can look over the suit and make your selection. And here is a picture showing the styles. You can make your choice from that, as to how you will have the suit made." The visitor gazed at the picture, and laying it down with a sigh turned towards the door. "You're not going, are you?" said the tailor. "Yes, I hate to disappoint my wife and to see you lose a customer. But I guess the picture is all right. I'll put out this suit of clothes is going to make me look like a stiff-necked, wooden-headed graven image with glass eyes and a false mustache. I'm going to go without it."—Washington Star.

NON-COMMITTAL. Jim's a cur as sort o' feller; Scold's a terrible noisy. Been a-worryin' 'bout the tariff 'Til he couldn't sleep. When I ask him how the taxes Takes over on him. Talks about the war in Europe, And of tyrant foes; Says "Hurrab" for lots o' people That nobly know. When I ask him what's the reason For his war-like trim; What's the actual cause for fightin'— "I dunno," says Jim. That's a little bit o' scoundrel! Seems ter suit him best; Frets 'bout things that don't concern him; Never takes no rest. When I ask him of his income Wouldn't be less slim. If he'd stick ter his own troubles— "I dunno," says Jim.—Washington Star.

THE BURRO. The burro is one of the "institutions" of Mexico everywhere in evidence, and the patient, hard-working little beast seems almost indispensable. They are as plentiful as castles, and apparently as hardy as the mountains. The loads they carry on their backs are simply astonishing. One sees no wheeled vehicles in use anywhere for carting purposes. The burros even transport the silver ore in sacks from the mines to the reduction works. It is equally wonderful to see what burdens the common laborers will carry on their backs. In the cities one of these peons may occasionally be seen trudging alone along, carrying a coffin to the grave on his back. Those who are able to hire funeral cars use these, which are provided by the street car companies, either with or without an extra

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